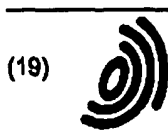


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(19)

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European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 991 027 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
12.09.2001 Bulletin 2001/37

(51) Int Cl.7: **G07C 9/00, G07G 1/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
05.04.2000 Bulletin 2000/14

(21) Application number: **99307637.3**

(22) Date of filing: **23.09.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(30) Priority: **30.09.1998 US 164098**

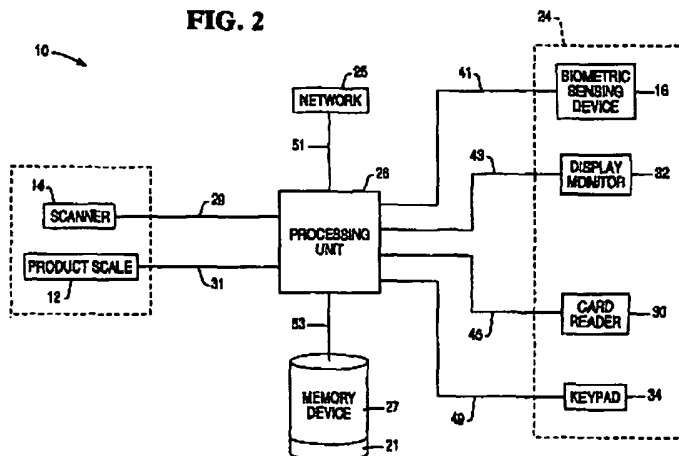
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(54) **Self-service checkout terminal having a biometric sensing device for verifying identity of a user and associated method**

(57) A self-service checkout terminal includes an input device for receiving a user reported identity code associated with a user of the checkout terminal and a biometric sensing device for detecting a biometric characteristic of the user. The self-service checkout terminal also includes a processing unit electrically coupled to both the input device and the biometric sensing device. Moreover, the self-service checkout terminal includes a memory device electrically coupled to the processing unit. The memory device has stored therein a plurality

of instructions which, when executed by the processing unit, causes the processing unit to (i) retrieve a user biometric profile which corresponds to the user reported identity code, (ii) detect if the user enters a restricted item into the checkout terminal and generate a restricted-item control signal in response thereto, and (iii) compare the user biometric profile with the biometric characteristic and generate an identity-verified control signal if the user biometric profile matches the biometric characteristic. A method of operating a self-service checkout terminal is also disclosed.

FIG. 2**EP 0 991 027 A3**



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 7537

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